

Reformation Sunday



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
319-337-4301

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 27, 2024
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
REFORMATION SUNDAY

Welcome to Congregational UCC. We are glad that you are here this morning. While we affirm that God speaks to us in many ways, we ask that you silence your cell phone as you enter the sanctuary. Please use the time during the prelude to quietly prepare for worship.

“The Reformation led to a full embrace of the radical political implications of a humanity created in the image of God—each individual with God-given dignity and value. And as a consequence, it led to political rights, to a new recognition of justice in the civic and political arena, and to a stress on grace as the fundamental word that God has spoken and on gratitude as the essential response for the one who has received grace.”

John Buchanan

PRELUDE “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Gerhard Krapf

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the place and this is the time.

Here and now, God waits to break into our experience.

To change our minds,

To change our hearts,

To change our ways.

To make us see the world and the whole of life in a new light.

To fill us with hope, joy, and peace.

[Unison]

Here and now, let us worship God.

* HYMN 289 “O God of Every Nation” (vs. 1-3)

O God of every nation,

of every race and land,

redeem the whole creation

with your almighty hand.

Where hate and fear divide us

and bitter threats are hurled,

in love and mercy guide us,

and heal our strife torn world.

From search for wealth and power

and scorn of truth and right,

from trust in bombs that shower

destruction through the night,

from pride of race and nation

and blindness to your way,

deliver every nation,

eternal God, we pray!

**Lord, strengthen those who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase.
When hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of the ages, in your sight nations rise and fall and pass through times of peril. You have shown us what is right: that we should act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Forgive us for how we have failed to walk in your ways. Now when our land is troubled, in your judgment and mercy, look with compassion on all of us.

Help us as citizens to respect neighbors whose views differ from ours. Give us the moral courage to work out issues that divide us. Equip us with your grace to act in such ways that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may abide in our midst. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Tune: LANCASHIRE)**

**Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way;
loud sounds your cry for justice, your call for peace this day:
Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong,
to carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.**

**Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,
for in each human conflict your words of strength we hear:
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,
our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.**

ANTHEM "Built on a Rock the Church Shall Stand" Dale Wood

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choral Response

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" John Carter

*Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below,
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(The children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Habakkuk 2:1-4

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;**
though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city;
It shall not be overthrown;**

God shall help it at the break of day.

The nations make much ado, and the realms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,
what awesome things God has done on earth.

**It is the Lord who makes war to cease in all the world,
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**

"Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Philippians 2:12-13

SERMON "Bracing for the Election"

***HYMN 420 “God of Grace and God of Glory”**

**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces,
Pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee!
That we fail not them nor Thee!**

**Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore**

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Built on a Rock” Wilbur Held

The Call to Worship is from *Traveling the Road of Faith: Worship Resources from the Corrymeela Community*.

The opening prayer is adapted from *The Worshipbook*.

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Interim Director of CE:	Hope Spragg
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director:	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children's Choir Director:	Rachel Burchett
Office Manager:	Jenn Harden

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US THIS MORNING. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

	TODAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Special Music Choir Rehearsal	11:35 am

	WEDNESDAY
❖ Staff Meeting	11:00 am

	NEXT SUNDAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Special Music Choir Rehearsal	11:35 am

GIVING TOGETHER. GROWING TOGETHER: The Christian life is lived together. We gather to worship, we work with each other in mission, we study in groups, we bear one another's burdens, and we talk and laugh together over coffee. We give together. We grow together. During worship this month members of our congregation will talk about why they give to support all that we do together. We will look ahead to the coming year and new opportunities and new possibilities.

RETURN TO STANDARD TIME Most of us can use a little extra sleep. Set your clocks back an hour before bedtime on Saturday, November 2. Get some rest and join us for Worship on November 3 (All Saints Sunday) at 10:15 a.m.—CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 3: Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes "All Saints Sunday." This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. This year we will remember **Joan Jehle, Ken Kuntz, Joan Parsons, David Schoonover, and Fern Weir**. Our worship service on this day is both solemn

and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, we will have a jazz band leading our worship on this Sunday to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin' in. Our friend, the well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson, will lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please join us on Sunday, November 3, for this special time of worship.

INTERGENERATIONAL MEET-UP AT THE HARVEST PRESERVE. Save the date, November 9 from 2-4. Join the CE Board for snacks at the pond house and an optional walk through the woods to the Harvest Stone Circle. And watch for more details!

OUR NEXT HOPE LODGE DINNER will be Monday, November 18. For those who would like to provide food there is a signup sheet in Rockwood Hall. Others are welcome to eat dinner and visit with residents. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m.

THE IOWA CITY FOREIGN RELATIONS COUNCIL is having a presentation on Christian Nationalism in Turkey on Friday. "Authoritarianism and Christian Nationalism In Victor Orban's Hungary," November 1st, 6:00-7:30 at Old Capital Museum on campus.

<https://www.icfrc.org/events.html> A free meal will be served so registration is requested.

OUR MISSION BOARD IS PLANNING THIS YEAR'S ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING. You will find items in Rockwood Hall on November 17, December 1 & 15. We typically offer the gifts of various farm animals through the Heifer Project, as well as donations of supplies to Church World Service, and other beautiful things created by artists and craftspeople in our congregation. John Reitz is organizing these Sundays. If you are interested in participating as a vendor and he has not yet contacted you, it is not because we don't want you to participate, but he probably does not know of your interest. Please contact John by phone or email to let him know of your interest.

SHARE THE HARVEST: Following the lead of earlier church members, John Fuller and Kathy Fait have been bringing flowers and vegetables during the growing season for over 20 years. This year Andy Bertolatus and Diane Atkins shared their cucumbers and tomatoes. In past years Bob and Gloria Hanson brought lovely apples from their Wisconsin farm, and other members shared their garden produce. A free-will donation is requested for the bouquets, apples, kale, tomatoes, basil, peppers, and other veggies. This year the donations, which reflect the generous giving from our congregation, will be sent to the CommUnity Food Bank. As of October 6, your efforts have raised over \$580 to fight food insecurity in our community.

THE JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION IS HAVING THEIR ANNUAL FRIEND AND FUND RAISER at the Unitarian Universalist Society, Nov. 20, 6:00-8:30. The church has purchased a table for 10 and a table for 7. All you need to do is tell Jenn Harden (319-337-4301) or Donna Hirst that you'd like to attend. If you would like to be a volunteer (likely serving food), let Donna know: donna-hirst@uiowa.edu. You can make an individual donation by giving a check to Bea Hicks, JCIC Treasurer.

AGAPE CAFÉ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Agape Cafe is a pop-up style restaurant located in Old Brick Church where they serve free hot dine-in or to-go breakfasts for our neighbors every Wednesday from 7:30-9AM. Since the beginning of the academic semester, they

have experienced a significant uptick in guests coming in for their services, averaging more than 105 meals served. With the higher demand, they are on the lookout for consistent volunteers who can help fulfill their mission of feeding our friends and neighbors experiencing homelessness and/or food insecurity. If you are interested in pitching in to help prep food, serve, or with clean-up, we would love to have you. Please email agapebreakfast@gmail.com for additional information.

FALL DIAPER DRIVE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD BANK: The Mission Board is holding a diaper drive in **September and October** to help the Food Bank replenish its supply of diapers for families in need. The Food Bank relies on donations for non-food items such as disposable diapers. Please help babies and toddlers in our community stay dry, clean, and healthy by participating in the diaper drive. **Diaper sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are the most needed as well as baby wipes.** There are two ways you can help. Buy a package of disposable diapers and wipes and bring them to Rockwood Hall. We will ensure that everything is delivered to the Food Bank. Or, if you would like to make a personal donation to support this drive, please write a check to the church with Diaper Drive on the memo line and the Mission Board will use the funds to purchase diapers. Whichever way you choose, your donation will help restock the Food Bank's diaper supply, provide free diapers for babies and toddlers in need and bring some economic relief to families.

PLEASE HELP WITH PARKING IN THE CHURCH LOT: Several people currently have mobility issues and need to park in our small parking lot on Jefferson St. If you are able, please park elsewhere so that the marked and unmarked spaces can be used by those who need them. Thanks.

SEE SOMETHING—SAY SOMETHING: If you notice something in the building that needs attention—a leaky faucet, a loose railing, etc.—please let the church office (319-337-4301) know right away. Thanks.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: There are still some opportunities to greet people coming to worship, to usher, and to provide hospitality during coffee hour after worship. Please sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall or call the church office--319-337-4031.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A LITURGIST ON SUNDAY MORNING? This is a great opportunity to welcome people and to lead them in worship. Bill Lovin provides the material. You provide the spirit. Contact Bill if you are interested or would like more information.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.
Your giving makes a world of difference.

WE LIVE STREAM OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10:15 ON SUNDAY MORNING.

You can join us online in real time at <https://vimeo.com/event/1424751>. This streaming address is the same each week.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted after worship on Sunday at <https://vimeo.com/channels/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.